

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03341 161252Z

51

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-03 /034 W  
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P R 161050Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9668

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3341

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3142

SUMMARY: BHUTTO HAS PERSONALLY INTERVENED IN THE PAK-AFGHAN TRANSIT ISSUE, INSTRUCTING GOP OFFICIALS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR MOVEMENT OF GOODS TO AFGHANISTAN AND REASSURING GOA THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE NOT INFLUENCED SHIPMENT PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (AFGHANISTAN) MANSUR AHMED CALLED IN POLITICAL COUNSELOR THIS MORNING TO PASS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN PAK-AFGHAN TRANSIT ISSUE. AHMED SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT MFA FELT THAT SINCE WE HAD MENTIONED THE ISSUE LAST WEEK FOLLOWING THE APPROACH MADE TO US IN KABUL WE SHOULD BE INFORMED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

2. AHMED RECALLED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED TO POLITICAL  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03341 161252Z

COUNSELOR IN THEIR LAST MEETING THAT GOA HAD PROTESTED

TO PAK CHARGE IN KABUL ABOUT TRANSIT ISSUE. HE SAID THAT CHARGE'S REPORT OF AFGHAN PROTEST HAD COME TO NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, THEN IN KARACHI. BHUTTO THEN BECAME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE MATTER. AKGORDING TO AHMED, HE CALLED IN THE PORT AND RAILWAY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSSHIPMENT OF AFGHAN GOODS TO GET THEIR ACCOUNT OF THE POSITION. HE THEN MADE IN CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY WERE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FACILITIES FOR MOVEMENT OF GOODS TO AFGHANISTAN.

3. AHMED STATED THAT ON BHUTTO'S INSTRUCTIONS ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK CALLED IN AFGHAN CHARGE SHERZOY YESTERDAY AND TOLD HIM OF BHUTTO'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION AND OF BHUTTO'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO FACILITATE FREIGHT MOVEMENT. ACCORDING AHMED, NAIK ALSO ASSURED SYIRZOY ON BHUTTO'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAD DEVELOPED.

4. AHMED NOTED THAT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHERZOY THE MFA REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE TO HIM THAT PAKS HAD BEEN AVERAGING 20 WAGONS A DAY AS HAD EARLIER BEEN PROMUSED. PAKS ASSURED SHERZOY THAT THEY WILL UNDERTAKE TO MEET AFGHAN REQUIREMENTS OF 20 DAILY WAGON AVERAGE, WHICH IS THE BEST THEY FEEL THEY CAN DO GIVEN OTHER

DEMANDS AND EXISTING AVAILABILITIES. (AHMED HAD NOT MENTIONED CONCEPT OF AVERAGING IN HIS LAST SESSION WITH POL COUNSELOR, AND NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EITHER DISINGENUOUS OR NOT FULLY INFORMED WHEN HE PASSED ON THE ARITHMETIC OF THE ISSUE AT THAT TIME. HE NOW ADMITS THAT THERE WERE DAYS WHEN ALLOCATIONS FELL AS LOW AS FOUR BUT INSISTS THAT THESE WERE BALANCED BY OTHER DAYS WHEN AS MANY AS 60 CARS WERE MADE AVAILABLE.)

5. BHUTTO'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION IS A PROMISING DEVELOPMENT, THE FIRST IN THE TROUBLED COURSE OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS SINCE THE BREAKDOWN OF THE PERCY INITIATIVE. WHATEVER THE AFGHANS MAY THINK OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO JUDGE THAT HE WOULD CONVEY SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03341 161252Z

ASSURANCES IF HE DID NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW THROUGH. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR PUTTING TO REST THE SENSITIVE TRANSIT ISSUE ON THE GOA SIDE WOULD BE ENHANCED BY THE MOVE. ON THE PAK SIDE, THE PM'S INTERVENTION SHOULD STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO FAVOR A MODERATE APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN.

6. AS NOTED ABOVE, MANSUR AHMED SAID HE WAS CALLING US

IN BECAUSE WE HAD RAISED THE ISSUE INITIALLY WITH MFA.  
IT IS LIKELY THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION (ISLAMABAD 3216)  
WITH AGHA SHAHI (WHICH WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY REPORTED TO  
THE PRIME MINISTER) INFLUENCED BHUTTO PERSONALLY TO INTER-  
VENE. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS DOES STRENGTHEN OUR FEELING  
THAT A FRIENDLY AND CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORK OR INQUIRY ON  
OUR PART IN THE RIGHT PLACE HERE CAN SOMETIMES HELP.  
BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** CARGO HANDLING, ALLEGATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PORT FACILITIES, GROUND VEHICLES  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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